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The Mercury.

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NEWPORT, R. I.

THE NEWPORT MERCURY was established in June, 1858, and is now in its one hundred and forty-eighth year. It is the oldest newspaper in the Union, and with less than half a dozen exceptions, the oldest printed in the English language. It is a large quarto weekly of forty-eight columns filled with interesting reading—editorial, state, local and general news, well selected miscellany and valuable farmers' and household departments. Reaching so many households in this and other states, the limited space given to advertising is very valuable to business men.

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Societies Occupying Mercury Hall.

ROGER WILLIAMS LODGE, No. 26, Order Sons of St. George, No. 1, J. J. Sullivan, President; Charles S. Randall, Record Keeper. Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays.

NEWPORT TENT, No. 13, Knights of Macdonald—President, J. J. Sullivan, Commander; Charles S. Randall, Record Keeper. Meets 2nd and 4th Mondays.

COURT WATSON, No. 679, FORESTERS OF AMERICA—William Ackerman, Chief Ranger; John B. Mason, Jr., Recording Secretary. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

THE NEWPORT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY—Alexander MacLellan, President; David McIntosh, Secretary. Meets 2d and 4th Tuesdays.

OCEAN LODGE, No. 7, A. O. U. W.—Robert P. Peckham, Master; William H. Langley, Recorder. Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.

MALBONE LODGE, No. 10, N. E. O. P.—Dudley E. Campbell, Warden; Mrs. Dudley E. Campbell, Secretary. Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays.

LADIES' AUXILIARY, Ancient Order of Hibernians—Mrs. J. J. Sullivan, President; Secretary, Katie G. Curley. Meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays.

REDWOOD LODGE, No. 11, K. of P.—M. W. Callahan, Chancellor; Commander, Robert S. Franklin, Keeper of Records and Seal; Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays.

DAVIS DIVISION, No. 8, U. R. K. of P.—Sir Knight Captain William H. Langley; Everett I. Gorton, Recorder. Meets 1st Fridays.

CLAN McLEOD, No. 103—James Graham, chief; Alexander Gillies, Secretary. Meets 2nd and 4th Fridays.

Local Matters.

A Wintery Week.

The weather of the past week has been rather more disagreeable than anything that Newport has previously experienced during the winter. There was considerable snow on the ground when the week came in but the weather bureau evidently thought it was not enough for a lot more was sent to us on Monday. The storm began during the afternoon and the snow fell fast and furiously for several hours, threatening a complete tie-up of trolley service. Fortunately during the evening it turned to rain which helped to carry off the accumulation of snow but it made a fearful night to be out and the walking was something abominable. The snow ploughs of the trolley lines were run out during Monday afternoon and evening and really had no serious trouble in keeping the lines open but the men were very apprehensive of trouble during the night until it began to rain.

Tuesday morning the storm was over but the streets were in very bad shape. The men of the highway department exerted themselves to the utmost but it was necessarily some hours before the crossings could be cleared and the gutters opened to permit the water to flow. Consequently the walking in the early morning was very bad, especially as many property owners had neglected to clear their walks. Tuesday night it turned cooler and Wednesday remained cool so that the snow did not disappear very fast except where it was exposed to the sun for a considerable time. Thursday was warmer and the sun made a great improvement on the accumulated supply of snow. But it does not seem very much like the real genuine spring even yet.

There has been some talk of the fishermen shipping their fish by the Enterprise Line from Jamestown this summer. The new line has been offering inducements to secure the business, but representatives of the Fall River Line have been here this week to look into the matter and it is probable that the business will be retained at Long Wharf.

The United States Cruiser Columbia arrived in the harbor last Saturday afternoon with a draft of 400 apprentices from Norfolk for the Training Station. They were landed at once and the Columbia sailed during the afternoon. The total number of apprentices at the island is now nearly 2000.

Mr. Thomas S. Stanhope and Mr. Samuel B. Kesson are enjoying a vacation in New York and Washington.

Rev. Dr. Webb Called.

The First Presbyterian Church has unanimously voted to extend a call to Rev. Aquila Webb, D. D., of Middletown, N. Y., to become pastor of the church. This action was taken at a meeting of the members of the church and congregation on Thursday evening.

Since the departure of Rev. Dr. Mead a number of candidates have occupied the pulpit. Dr. Webb preached here one Sunday and although he was in no sense a candidate for the pastorate the people were so pleased with him that they insisted upon considering him for the position. A meeting for the purpose of calling a pastor was held on Monday evening, but at that time the severe blizzard that prevailed prevented many from attending, so that it was thought advisable to defer action until more members could be present. An adjourned meeting was held on Thursday evening, when there was a large attendance of members of the church and congregation. It was unanimously voted to extend the call to Rev. Dr. Webb and it is hoped he will accept.

Rev. Aquila Webb, D. D., is at present pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Middletown, N. Y., a large and flourishing church, and he is regarded as one of the ablest ministers of the Presbyterian denomination. He is a graduate of the Union Theological Seminary of New York City and was for some time pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles, California. He is about 35 years old and has a family, consisting of a wife and one daughter. He spent a portion of last summer in Newport while enjoying his vacation and at that time preached one Sunday at the Presbyterian Church, creating a very favorable impression.

It is generally believed that Dr. Webb will accept the call to Newport.

Recent Deaths.

Mrs. Johanna Vogt-Smith.

Mrs. Johanna Vogt-Smith died very suddenly at the Draper Cottage on Bull street, on Wednesday. She was taken seriously ill during the preceding night and passed away about one o'clock in the afternoon. Although she had been in failing health for some time she had been able to attend to her duties even on the day before her death.

Mrs. Smith, although of foreign birth, had made her home in Newport for many years. She had been employed as a teacher of modern languages at the Rogers High School for a period of thirty years lacking only a few months. Possessing an excellent education herself she had the happy faculty of being able to impart her knowledge to others and was a successful teacher. She had many warm friends among the alumni of the school.

Mrs. Smith's husband, the late William Smith, was one of the many who have lost their lives at the Forty Steps. He sacrificed his life in a vain attempt to save that of a pupil, who had fallen into the water while the two were fishing there in June, 1878.

Mrs. Smith leaves one daughter, Miss Camilla Smith. The flag of the Rogers High School has been at half-mast on account of her death.

Birthday Surprise.

Mr. Daniel C. Denham observed the seventy-first anniversary of his birth on Wednesday at his home on Spring street. Relatives and a few intimate friends gathered at his home to help him celebrate this happy occasion. Mr. Denham was taken quite by surprise when the guests were invited to the dining room, to find there a bountifully laden table of eatables and in front of his plate a birthday cake bearing the inscription: "D. C. D." also "71."

It is reported that a well-known firm of architects in New York are drawing plans for a hotel in Newport that will cost \$500,000. Considerable secrecy is being maintained in regard to the matter and it is not known who is behind the project, but it seems likely that if the report is true some capitalists have discovered the fact that there is an opening in Newport for a first class hotel. It is a wonder that outside capital has not before discovered this fact. The people of Newport are hoping that a good hotel will materialize.

Colonel and Mrs. A. A. Barker have returned from Cuba, and Mrs. Barker will spend the summer here. Col. Barker will return to his plantation at an early date, as there is much there that demands his attention. He reports that the affairs of the enterprise are in a flourishing condition and the prospect is very bright. Land in the immediate neighborhood is being settled rapidly.

Mrs. Frederick P. Sands is visiting relatives in Washington.

Island Cemetery.

The annual meeting of the Island Cemetery corporation was set for last Monday evening, but owing to the storm there was not a quorum present. The report of Superintendent A. K. McMahon was as follows:

The general care of the cemetery must of necessity be much the same from year to year. I find that lot owners are taking a deeper interest in the appearance of the cemetery, and am sure, from the comment of lot owners and visitors, that it will compare favorably with other cemeteries. Under the direction of the committee on grounds several of the avenues have been re-surfaced and graded, making a great improvement in the general appearance of the grounds. This will be continued till all the avenues are gravelled. The buildings have been repaired and painted two coats. Twenty odd lots have been re-grassed. Several vaults have been built, but not as many as in former years. The tendency toward this form of burial (in vaults) is decreasing, and it is generally accepted as a fact that the proper and most sanitary form of burial is in an earth grave.

Mr. L. Case Ledyard has erected a handsome entrance and substantial curbing around his lot, which adds very much to the appearance of that section, which is near the chapel. Several beautiful monuments have been erected this year. People generally are adopting the plan of erecting one suitable memorial, instead of filling the lot with small tablets. Owing to the open winter which we have had but few have used the receiving tomb. The number of burials have been less than in any preceding year since I have been here (since 1883). Several lots have been sold and quite a number of perpetual care funds have been paid. This is a subject that ought to be kept before the lot owners, as in no other way can they secure the absolute certainty of having their lots cared for for all time.

The report of the treasurer was as follows:

Balance March, 1905,	\$2,060 03
Received, sale of lots, \$2.25, one-half for permanent improvement,	1,621 50
Received, labor and material,	5,791 77
Total,	\$11,265 30
Paid, annual meeting,	\$1 45
Stables,	1,800 00
Labor and material,	6,745 82
Repairs,	267 12
Telephone,	50 00
Water,	50 81
Balance,	2,411 25
Total,	\$11,265 30

DeBlos Council.

At the annual assembly of DeBlos Council, No. 5, Royal and Select Masters, on Tuesday evening, Grand Master Frederick E. Sammis of Providence presided over the election and installed the officers. Jewels were presented to Past Masters Thatcher T. Bowler and Elbert A. Sisson. The following officers were elected:

Thrice Illustrious Master—William H. Langley.
Deputy Master—Robert S. Burlingame.
Principal Conductor of the Work—Robert W. Curry.
Recorder—Andrew K. McMahon.
Treasurer—A. H. Hildreth.
Captain—Robert S. Franklin.
Captain of the Guard—George C. Lawton.
Captain of the Council—David Inyis.
Marshal—Charles J. Soderman.
Steward—Percy T. Ratley.
Sentinel—J. Gottlieb Springer.

The Newport Engineering Works has furnished to the Naval Training Station a first class Nott steam fire engine for use at the station. The engine is a very powerful machine, with a greater capacity than anything in Newport, and the latest ideas are embodied in its construction. A builders trial was held at the Station Friday, afternoon in the presence of naval officers, representatives of the builders and agents, and newspaper men.

The members of Coronet Council, Royal Arcanum, had a great celebration in Newport last night (Friday), on the occasion of the twenty-eighth anniversary of the council. Grand Officers were present, and there were also visitors from many of the subordinate councils of the State. Haskell Lodge of Pawtucket attended in a body for the purpose of returning the crown which has been on its journey through the councils of the State.

Apprentice R. D. Holly of Plymouth, Indiana, died at the Naval Training Station on Thursday of spotted fever, having been stricken with the disease some two weeks ago. He came here with the draft of apprentices from Norfolk about a month ago. There is now but one other case of spotted fever at the Station.

Hope Circle, International Sunshine Society, entertained about 100 children in the Channing parlors on Saturday of last week. The children were pleasantly entertained by Miss Mabel White for an hour with illustrated stories, after which there were tableaux, music, candy and a grab bag.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss Bertha M. Mumford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Mumford, to Dr. H. H. Luther.

Dr. V. Mott Francis, who has been spending the winter in Roxbury, Mass., has been in the city the past week.

Last Saturday was about the quietest St. Patrick's Day that Newport has known for years.

Conference Next Week.

The sixty-sixth session of the Southern New England Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church will be held in this city for six days beginning next Tuesday, and elaborate preparations are being made for the reception and entertainment of the ministers who will attend. It has been many years since a session of the conference was held here and the Methodists in Newport are responding readily to the calls upon them. The presiding bishop, Rev. Earl Cranston, D. D., LL. D., will be here. The handsome edifice of the United Congregational Church has been tendered for the use of the conference.

The program of the week is as follows:

Tuesday, March 27: 10 a. m.—Examinations by the board of conference examiners, Rev. J. H. Allen, chairman; 4:30 p. m., meeting of the board; 7:30 p. m., University of Epworth League, Rev. Florus L. Streeter, President; address by Rev. David G. Downey, D. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., topic, "The League's Greatest Opportunity."

Wednesday: 9 a. m.—Holy communion, Bishop Earl Cranston; 10 a. m., organization of conference, business; statistical and financial reports from every charge required on the first day; 2 p. m., missionary sermon, Rev. C. E. Delaunier; 3:30 p. m., temperance anniversary, by request of the conference; Rev. J. H. James will preach a semi-centennial sermon on the progress of temperance. His subject will be, "Fifty Years of Reform." Dr. M. S. Kaufman appointed to preside; 4:30 p. m., board of church extension, Rev. P. M. Vinton to preside; speaker, Dr. Charles M. Russell of Philadelphia.

Thursday: 8:30 a. m.—Devotional service, conducted by Bishop Cranston; 9 a. m. to 12 m., business session; 2 p. m., literary address, Prof. Buell to preside. Dr. B. Charlton Black, (LL. D., Glasgow University), Professor of English in Boston University, will give his lecture, entitled "Stevenson and Barrie—A Study in Personality." Prof. Black in his college days was personally acquainted with these and other representatives of the modern Scottish school of writers. 4 p. m.—Annual meeting of the Preachers' Aid Society, Rev. C. A. Steinhilber, president, revision of constitution; 7:30 p. m.—Anniversary of the board of conference, Epine Missions, Costello Lippitt, Esq., President.

Friday—8:30 a. m., devotional service in charge of the Bishop; 9 a. m. to 12 m., business session; 2 p. m., anniversary of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, Mrs. Julian S. Wadsworth to preside, Rev. George Heber Jones of Corea will speak; 3 p. m., anniversary of the Women's Home Missionary Society, Mrs. T. J. Everett, Conference President, to preside; speaker, Mrs. Bass, national organizer; topic, "Our Country, Its Problems"; 5 p. m., Boston University banquet in Thames Street Church; 7:30 p. m., anniversary of the Freedman's Aid and Southern Education Society, Dr. C. M. Melden to preside; Rev. W. P. Thirkfield, D. D., Corresponding Secretary, will speak and represent the society; 8 p. m., camp fire, given by the Grand Army of the Republic of Newport to Veterans and Sons of Veterans, to be held in Charles F. Lawton Post Hall, corner Thames and Marlborough streets.

Saturday—8:30 a. m., devotional service in charge of the Bishop; 9 a. m. to 12 m., business session; 2 p. m., educational anniversary, Rev. R. S. Moore to preside; Bishop Mallalieu by request will deliver an address on "Our Secondary School in New England"; 3 p. m., anniversary of the Sunday School Union, Rev. J. N. Gelsler to preside; Rev. John T. MacFarland, D. D., Corresponding Secretary, will deliver the address; 7:30 p. m., reception to Bishop Earl Cranston and Mrs. Cranston and the Bishop's cabinet of presiding elders, with their wives. All members of the conference, with their wives, the visiting and local laity are universally invited.

Sunday—By courtesy of its officers, all services on this day will be held in the United Congregational Church; 9 a. m.—The annual conference love feast, in charge of Rev. Micah J. Talbot, D. D.; 10:30 a. m.; public worship, Bishop Cranston will preach the sermon; 2 p. m.—Memorial session, in charge of the committee on memoirs, conference quartet will sing; 3 p. m.—Ordination of the deacons and elders and consecration of deaconsesses, 7:30 p. m.—Missionary anniversary, Rev. Eben Tirrell to preside; speaker, Dr. A. B. Leonard of New York.

Monday, 8:30 a. m.—Devotional service in charge of the Bishop; 9 a. m. to 12 m.—Business session.

The standing committees of the conference are as follows:

Bible work, John Pearce, W. B. Heath, W. J. Smith; church extension, G. W. Elmer, W. D. Woodward, L. B. Coddling; church literature and periodicals, F. L. Streeter, John Oldham, E. P. Phreaner; conference claimants, J. G. Gammons, F. V. Baker, E. M. Anthony, H. A. Ridgway, E. W. Goodier, J. N. Patterson, J. McVay, C. T. Hatch, W. S. McIntire, O. E. Johnson, J. H. Buckley, F. H. Spear; conference home mission, Jacob Betts, S. F. Maine, E. J. Curry; conference relations, C. M. Melden, S. O. Benton, W. P. Buck, E. C. Bass, E. Tirrell, W. F. Kugler, L. M. Flocken, H. A. Ridgway, Thomas Tyrie; education, R. S. Moore, M. S. Kaufman, D. A. Whedon, I. W. Le Baron, J. H. Newland, M. J. Talbot, M. B. Wilton, M. D. Buell; Epworth League, W. W. Booth, R. B. Cushman, D. W. Adams, E. W. Burch, S. J. Rook, J. E. Duxbury; Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society, C. T. Hatch, N. B. Cook, A. J. Jolly; historian, G. H. Bates; assistants, M. J. Talbot, Walter Elia, F. H. Spear, S. M. Beale, G. A. Grant, W. J. Smith, R. C. Miller, J. B. Ackley, E. C. Bass; missions, the presiding elders; obituaries, M. J. Talbot, F. W. Coleman, M. B. Wilton, Walter Elia, J. S. Wadsworth, J. G. Gammons, E. W. Goodier, R. McP. Amen, G. H. Bates, E. M. Anthony, A. J. Jolly; publication

of year book, F. C. Baker; public worship, C. A. Steinhilber, E. W. Burch, G. E. Brightman, C. H. Ewer; resolutions of appreciation, James Conte, J. W. Adams, J. S. Bell; Sabbath observance, E. F. Smith; services of conference, 1907, W. H. Allen, T. J. Everett, H. E. Murkett; Sunday schools, J. N. Gelsler, J. O. Raudall, G. W. Manning; temperance, W. F. Davis, W. L. Hood, H. H. Critchlow; Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, S. M. Beale, J. S. Wadsworth, H. W. Brown; Woman's Home Missionary Society, P. M. Vinton, J. E. Hawkins, Merick Ranson.

The Charter Hearing.

The committee on the judiciary of the House of Representatives gave a public hearing on the bill creating a new charter for the city of Newport at the State House on Thursday, and quite a number of persons interested in the bill went up from Newport to attend the hearing. There was nothing said against the bill, all those who spoke being in favor of its passage.

Among those who were present were Judge John C. Burke, Col. William P. Sheffield, Jr., Lewis Brown, Dr. C. A. Brackett, Admiral Stephen B. Luce, Representatives Robert S. Burlingame and Clark Burdick, City Solicitor J. Stacy Brown, Councilmen Herbert L. Dyer, J. Joseph M. Martin and John P. Casey, and Mr. William P. Buffum. Nothing particularly new was brought out at the hearing and the amendments that were suggested at the public meeting held by the Citizens Business Association were not brought out.

Judge John C. Burke, as chairman of the committee that drew up the charter, was the first to address the committee. He explained the reasons for desiring such a charter and told of the conditions that at present exist in Newport. He explained many points of the proposed new charter. He was followed by Col. Sheffield along similar lines. Dr. Brackett explained how party politics in municipal affairs are to be eliminated and he hoped that it would result in the improvement of conditions in Newport. City Solicitor Brown spoke of the defects of the present caucus method and said that he believed that the proposed charter would work for more independence. Other speakers included Councilmen Dyer, Martin and Casey.

Wedding Balls.

Miller-Becker.

Miss Emille J. Becker and Mr. Albert J. Miller were married at the residence of the bride, 77 Third street, on Thursday afternoon, Rev. C. A. Steinhilber, of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, officiating. The ceremony was witnessed by a large gathering of friends and was very simple, there being no bridesmaid or best man. The bride was becomingly gowned in a dress of light gray nun's veiling with trimmings of applique. After the ceremony a reception was held for several hours, when congratulations and best wishes for their future happiness were extended to the newly wedded couple. The bride was the recipient of many pretty and useful gifts.

The bride's travelling dress was of brown, with hat to match. Mr. and Mrs. Miller left on the five o'clock train for New London, where they will spend their honeymoon, and were given a rousing send-off. On their return they will reside at 77 Third street.

Middletown.

Rev. George E. Brightman.

After a long and tedious illness, extending over the past year, Rev. George Edgar Brightman, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Middletown, died early Sunday morning of Bright's disease, having been unconscious since the afternoon previous.

Mr. Brightman assumed his recent pastorate in April, at Easter time last year, and was not in the best of health at that time, having left his previous charge at Edgartown in hopes the climate of Middletown would be beneficial.

A vacation in June brought no relief and he preached but a few times after that month, his last service being August 8, when he administered communion and made a short address. His intense sufferings were borne with the most heroic patience and cheerfulness and the many and great kindnesses shown him and his family by the members of his parish and by a large circle of neighbors and friends was a great source of comfort and gratitude to him.

Mr. Brightman was a native of Mystic, Conn., having been born there August 24, 1853. He joined the church at the age of 16 and for the past 25 years has been a conscientious and devoted minister of the Gospel. A graduate of East Greenwich Academy, he was one of a class of 10 to join the New England Southern Conference in 1881 and is the first member of that class to die. His pastorate included South Braintree, Hattusket and West Abington, Nantucket, North Dighton, Plymouth, Attleboro, Broadway, Providence, Thames Street, Newport, Pascoag, Whitman, Centre Church, Provincetown, Edgartown and Middletown.

Mr. Brightman leaves a widow, one son, a brother, Mr. Frank Brightman of Mystic, Conn., and two sisters, Mrs. Ida Chesboro of Westerly and Mrs.

Abbie Baker of Mystic. Mrs. Chesboro has been assisting in the care of her brother since the middle of September.

Funeral services were held Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock at the Methodist Episcopal Church and were in charge of Presiding Elder W. I. Ward of the New Bedford district. In the absence of Presiding Elder Coulton who was ill, the casket was preceded up the aisle by 18 of his former associate clergymen, the bearers being Alden P. Barker, Charles H. Ward, Abram Brown, Arthur Chase, Charles Peckham and James Barker.

Services opened with a hymn, by the church quartette, Messrs. A. Herbert Ward and William J. Peckham, Mrs. Ida Brown and Miss Louise Barker; readings of the Scripture by Rev. J. W. Buckley of Central Falls and Rev. John Pearce of Fall River; addresses by Rev. Micah J. Talbot, D. D., of Providence, an old family friend, Rev. R. S. Moore of New Bedford (a former pastor here), Presiding Elder W. I. Ward presented a fine eulogy, and Rev. C. A. Steinhilber of Newport spoke of the glowing chapters of Mr. Brightman's life. Mr. Ward and Mr. Steinhilber were members of Mr. Brightman's conference class. After a hymn Rev. C. F. Cooper of Providence offered prayer and Mr. Ward pronounced the benediction.

The pulpit elevation at the Middletown church was a mass of beautiful blooms. From the church, a pillow of plinks, hyacinths and lilies with the words "Our Pastor," in purple immortelles; Ladies' Social, large cluster of Calis lilies with chiffon; Women's Christian Temperance Union, large spray of plinks; Thames Street M. E. Church, large wreath of lily leaves and pansies; King's Daughters of the Centre Church, Provincetown, lily leaves; the Provincetown Methodist Episcopal Church, pink roses; Mrs. W. R. Hunter, large daffodil wreath; Fall River and New Bedford preachers, a wreath of pink roses and maiden hair fern; Epworth League, pink and white carnations; the "Kappa Sigma," of Brown University, lily and pink carnations; Mrs. A. G. Vanderbilt, large wreath of lily leaves, carnations and chiffon, and many others. A large congregation filled the church.

COURT OF PROBATE.—At the session of the Court of Probate held on Monday last the following estates were passed upon:

Estate of Harriet B. Bannoff. Her will was proven and ordered recorded and letters testamentary were directed to issue to James L. Putnam and Frederick M. Stone, as Executors, they being each required to give a personal bond in the sum of \$50,000.

Estate of John B. Ward. Charles H. Ward is appointed Administrator and required to give bond in the sum of \$10,000, with J. Peckham and James R. Chase as Sureties. For Appraisers, James T. Barker, Henry C. Sherman, and James H. Barker were appointed.

Estate of Phoebe A. Peckham. Charles A. Peckham, the Administrator, presents his first and final account and the same is referred to the third Monday of April with an order of notice.

Estate of Sarah M. Peckham. James T. Peckham presents his petition to be appointed Administrator thereon, which is continued to the third Monday of April and notice ordered thereon.

In Town Council the following accounts were allowed and ordered paid: Charles A. Peckham, surveyor of District No. 4, highway repairs, \$17 00; James Anthony, for furnishing team to arrest one Madelon and to summon witnesses to testify in the case, \$14 00; Charles Peckham, for making out and delivering six deeds of burial lots, \$9; J. Overton Peckham, services as Assessor of Taxes, \$20; Charles H. Ward, services and expenses as Town Treasurer, \$104 65; John D. Blair, services as Town Sergeant, \$55 50; Joshua Coggeshall, services as Deputy Town Clerk, \$3; accounts for the relief of the poor, \$26.

William E. Coggeshall and Joshua Coggeshall were granted orders on the dog fund; the first had sustained damages from dogs to the amount of \$11.40 and the second to the amount of \$11.70.

It was voted to submit to the electors at the annual town meeting to be held on April 4, two propositions respecting the highways, one appropriating \$2,000 for ordinary repairs and the second appropriating \$5,000 for repairing and constructing stone roads. The Town Clerk was directed to insert the same in his warrant issued for giving notice of the annual meeting.

The Town Council adjourned to meet as a Board of Canvassers on Friday, March 30, 1906, at two p. m., when the final canvass of the voting lists he made and completed for the annual town meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 4.

ACTIVE CANVAES IN PROGRESS.—It is apparent that there will be more than the usual contest in the election of town officers on the first Wednesday in April. For some weeks the Reform Association has been busily engaged in stirring up a sentiment against the members of the present Town Council and in enlisting the support of the voters for a new ticket. Recently the friends of the present Council have become active in endeavors to secure their re-election and both sides are carrying on an aggressive warfare. It is announced that of the members of the present Council, Messrs. Lionel H. Peabody and Arthur L. Peckham will not be candidates for re-election. Henry C. Sherman and James H. Barker are mentioned as probable candidates for the two vacancies. It is further declared that Joseph A. Peckham will head the new Council ticket and that William R. Hunter, Philip Caswell, Joshua Coggeshall and Arthur W. Chase are to complete the make-up of this ticket. Some members of the Reform Association assert that it is not certain who will be nominated on their ticket and that nothing definite can be learned until after the meeting to be held this Saturday evening, when nominations for the principal town officers will be made. At any rate a spirited contest is in prospect and an uncompromising fight up to the close of the polls on April 4.

HESPER

...BY...

HAMLIN GARLAND

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CHAPTER XV.

NOTWITHSTANDING the excitement of the day, or perhaps because of them, Ann slept soundly. She was awakened as before, by the sound of the little coffee mill, but she did not rise as promptly as on the first morning and was still dozing when Nora appeared with a piece of corn cake and a cup of coffee. "You feel tired this morning, I know. Well, now, take your breakfast in bed."

Ann was conscious smitten. "No, no! You poor, dear thing! I am ashamed to have you waiting on me."

"It's so little—a mere step or two." "Yes, but you have so many steps. After this I forbid you doing anything of this kind for me, and I've been thinking why can't we hire a Chinaman to work for us? Unless I can do something to relieve you I will not stay. You are tired. I wish you would ask Mr. Raymond to find us a helper today."

"Hello, sis!" shouted Louis. "Aren't you up yet? You'll never make a miner." Here he poked his head in at the door. "Jupiter, wasn't yesterday an exciting day? It makes me sick to think I didn't go down to Bozle with you. Rob has been telling me about Matt's shielding the sheriff. It must have been great. I was out on the hillside. We all thought the sheriff was coming up that way, but he didn't. He turned back and went into camp, and last night Jack went down and pitched into him, and they had a battle."

"They did? Was any one killed?" "Ten."

Nora gasped. "Merciful powers!" "So Perry says. Our side won." Ann frowned. "Our side! You are not taking sides with these lawless miners?"

Louis wished to sidetrack this discussion. "Our things have come."

"Have they? Very well, I'll get up at once and unpack. I want you to help me a little here."

"And I want you to help fix up our bungalow."

"Agreed. Now run away and find a hammer and some tacks."

Together they tried to render her room a little less bleak, and together they crossed the path to Raymond's cabin, where they toiled merrily. Ann was just leaving the bungalow to help Mrs. Kelly with the midday meal when Munro dashed up and flung himself from his horse.

"Good morning, Lady Ann! How fares the day?"

Something nudgy presuming in his tone irritated her, and she gave him a glance intended to check and humble him. "I am quite well, thank you."

He was not of those whom disdainful eyes abuse. He hugged himself and shivered contentedly. "Wow, but that was a cold breeze! Some one must have left the bars down. You're not going to draw the line on me, are you? What do you know against me?"

"I know nothing against you or for you either," she replied.

She was turning to go when he stopped her, and his tone was hard and dry. "You were in Bozle yesterday with Raymond. Don't do that again. When you want an escort let me know. I'll send a man that knows enough not to take a lady into danger and who has 'savvy' enough to keep his horses for the return trip."

"Thank you. You are very kind, but I'm not in need of additional protection." Ann icily replied.

"Goodbye till tomorrow," he called after her in mockery, his voice as musical as a bugle.

This interview, short as it was, left the girl with the feeling of having been grasped and shaken by a rude hand. And yet her anger was not unmingled with admiration. His magnificent audacity and the grace and dash of his advance interested her.

Raymond saw Munro riding away and wondered what his errand could have been, and when Louis told him that the gambler had stopped and detained Ann in the path his teeth set in anger. "The little fiend!" he growled under his breath. "I'll put an end to that!"

Immediately upon finishing his supper he went up the path to Hanley's to find "the lookout." Munro was in his place, sitting high above his fare-laying creaking a couple of silver dollars together, talking with gleeful intensity to Denver Jim, who stood at his shoulder broadly smiling. The saloon was packed with men, all in high spirits over the precipitate flight of the sheriff. Munro sighted him at last and called out: "Hello, Bob! How goes it?"

Raymond did not reply till he reached his side. "I want to talk with you, Jack," he said in a low voice.

Munro studied him for a moment, then turned to him, "Take my place a minute."

Dan complied, and Raymond led the way into the open air, and when they were well out of the crowd he turned and said:

"You interrupted Miss Rupert today?"

"I met her, yes. What about it?"

"Just this. You're not fit to shake the hand of a decent girl, much less a cultured, high bred woman like Ann Rupert, and you know it!"

Munro was staggered. "What business is it of yours?" he asked, with instant anger.

Raymond's wrath was self contained. "Keep your temper, Jack. We've summed and wintered together, and you can't make any mistakes about what I mean. I know the kind of women you live with and the kind of life you lead,

and I tell you to keep away from the Kelly cabin."

Munro did not snarl as Raymond expected. His voice became softly insinuating as he said: "Suppose the lady invited me to call? Suppose she was interested in my conversation? The lady had a chance to go. The path was open, but she lingered, she smiled."

"You're a liar!"

Munro was now very confident. "Am I? Ask the boy; he saw her talking with me. I say the lady was gracious."

The gambler took on the air of an injured comrade. "Now, see here, Rob; you're away out of limits. I acknowledge I've known a whole lot of cheap women, but that's all the more reason why I should be able to tell when I meet the real thing. Her name is as safe with me as with you. Probably she's tied up back in the states anyway, so that neither of us has any chance of interesting her. But it's an open case and no favors, and so long as she doesn't hand me out the 'big mitt' I'm going to make the most of my chance, and from this moment!"—he took off his hat—"I reform. I throw up my job at Hanley's, I cut off 'boozie' and I shake 'Eau Claire'."

Raymond was impressed by his rival's manner. "You can quit gambling, and I hope you can leave liquor alone, but I see trouble when you shake Claire. But that doesn't matter. For the sake of old times I want to avoid a quarrel with you, Jack. But I warn you that if Miss Rupert finds your presence disagreeable you go, and you stay! As you say, she is probably engaged to a better man than either of us. But she is here because of the boy, and I feel a certain responsibility for them both, and the man who presumes on a chance acquaintance with her will answer to me."

"All right. Leave it to her, Rob," said Munro almost jocularly. "If she turns me down I'll pull out of my own accord, lightning sure. Good night!"

Raymond walked away with a sense of failure. Munro had adroitly writhed out of his grasp and was probably exulting at his own cleverness. He was troubled, too, by the confident tone which Munro had taken in saying, "The way was open; she lingered."

Out of the tumult of his doubt he emerged with an accession of confidence in himself. "If it comes to a choice between us, my chances are as good as Jack's. Her tolerance of him is due to ignorance of his real character. Mrs. Kelly must tell her."

He saw the light in Kelly's home, and its atmosphere was stronger than ever before, but he resolutely held his way to his own fireside, there to bitterly muse the entire evening over his poverty and the false position in which Munro had cleverly placed him.

He repented of his resolute passing of her door when he heard next day that a couple of the independent operators had spent the entire evening with Kelly and that one of them talked a great deal to Ann. The string of it lay in the fact that Tracy was a fine young fellow, studious and capable. "You are a fool," Raymond said to himself. "You threw away a chance to be happy. Don't do it again."

CHAPTER XVI.

NOT a day passed that the captain of the patrol did not ride down to the door of the Kelly cabin and leap from his saddle with some fanciful greeting, carefully and ornately uttered. So much he retained of his Kentucky breeding.

"The sheriff's army grows apace, but does not march," he announced one morning.

Ann could not understand this humorous defiance of law—this colossal recklessness. "What will you do when it does march?"

"Meet it and bust it!"

"Tell me, now," she said to him at another time, "what is your real motive? Why should you be the champion of the rights of labor?"

He astonished her by giving back earnestness for earnestness. "I'll tell you, my lady. Labor has got to fight. This union is the coming thing. The toilers have not only got to stand together, but they've got to drill. I happen to have a little military training, and I'm going to give western labor its first lesson in the power of military organization."

"Rob and Kelly both stand for the thing that is going out. They think any man has the same chance they have, but I tell you this union that they despise is the coming order."

In truth, Kelly and Raymond were watching Munro's rise to power with growing uneasiness. He was now in almost complete control of the camp, and though he still deferred to the union and its committees, his reckless bravery, his prompt execution of orders and his knowledge of military forms had made of him the chief source of command, the only adequate regulative force on the peak. Those on the outside did not hesitate to call him "the arch devil of the district," and the whole western world was filled with his doings, his reckless speeches.

His fame had fired the hearts of all the dead shots and restless spirits of the west, and from an irregular squad of twenty-five or thirty men his forces had risen to nearly 200 heavily armed and hardy horse-men.

Raymond, though keeping keen eyes upon Munro, was unable to find cause for war in any word or act of the gambler, nor could he fathom Ann's mind either toward Munro or himself. She appeared to find Munro diverting and spoke of him only in that way. If she understood his "home life," it made no change in her attitude. It was inconceivable that a refined girl should tolerate a man who passed from one ignorant and vicious woman to another, and yet Ann's greeting remained gracious, if not friendly. What it was, when they were alone, he dared not think.

As for Raymond himself, he continued to punish himself by putting aside the many opportunities which came to plead his own suit, and took a morbid sort of pleasure in his renunciation. "There will be one man at least who will not persecute her," he said savagely and bent his best energies to the work of developing his mine.

One afternoon as Ann and Mrs. Kelly sat sewing and chatting together a woman suddenly appeared in the open door. She was large and high colored, her hair was away, and there was a wild glare in her eyes and a look in her face that froze even Nora into silence. Both stared at their strange visitor in breathless apprehension till she pointed her moustache finger at Ann and hoarsely cried out:

"So you're the one that's cut me out?" The muscles of one cheek contorted and her eyelid dropped like that of a paralytic as she fixed a baleful look on the astonished girl. After a moment's pause she stepped uncertainly upon the threshold and leaned against the jamb. "Well, you'd better watch out. If you don't give him up, I'll kill you!"

"She's crazy," whispered Nora. The intruder tumbled in her absurdly flamboyant skirt and at last drew out a pistol. "Now you better hop!" she said, with menacing calmness.

Ann rose, white and calm. "Who are you? What do you want?"

"Who am I? I'm Jack Munro's wife, that's who I am, and I want you to let him alone, that's what I want. You can understand that, can't you?" Her big, shabby face again contorted horribly.

Nora found tongue. "You go away or I'll call Matt."

"Call him. What do I care for him? I ain't afraid of no man livin'. No, sir; let him come. But I got no war with you; you're all right. But that thing there, with her fancy dresses—I'll pink her with a bullet if she don't let my Jack alone."

If the drunken creature had swept a handful of mire into her face Ann could not have been more revolted, more degraded. Fixing a look of disdain on the woman, she said: "You are quite mistaken. Your Jack is less than nothing to me. I despise him and all he represents."

The other wildly laughed. "Ah, yes, you can talk—you're smooth—but I know! She began to bluster. "If you hated him, why do you talk and laugh with him? I saw you yesterday." She raised the pistol. "I tell you, I'll blow you into kingdom come if you don't promise right now to give him up!"

As she advanced the two little lads at play just outside appeared in the doorway, and the sight of them steeled the little mother's heart. "Go away, darlins," she called to them. "Quick, run for dad!"

The woman turned to see who was behind her, and the desperate Nora seized her by the wrist. "Give me the gun!" she called.

"I won't! Let go me!" shrieked the intruder, jerking hard in the effort to free her hand.

Ann seized the other arm. "I promise," she said quietly, fixing her eyes full upon those of the infuriated woman, who ceased to struggle. "Now go away."

"You promise?"

"I promise."

The woman again laughed harshly, drunkenly. "I don't trust you. I'll kill you; then I know. Let go me!" she called. "Let go or I'll smash your face!"

"Matt! Oh, Matt!" called Nora as she clung desperately to that terrible wrist.

Help came from an unexpected quarter. Like a flash, Woo, the new Chinese

local weakness, half mental repulsion. There was something ghastly beyond words in this creature sitting in utter abandonment in her rumpled slippers, which the pitiless sun dissected. Blooming, she took the miserable one by the arm. "Get up. You must not sit there."

Slowly the woman rose, all thought of revenge swallowed up in a wave of maudlin self pity. "You're all right me—all of ye! I guess you wouldn't like it to have your husband stolen by another woman. You let me alone!" she said to Woo, with a flash of anger. "You pigtail, what business you got to lay hands on a white lady?"

The creature began to pour forth a flood of vile epithets, directed toward the patient Woo, who tried again and again to lift her and was in the midst of a howl of wrath when Matt came round the corner of the house.

"What's all this?" he asked sharply. The woman suddenly rose to her feet, well aware that a man had arrived, and began to mumble and weep again.

Nora ran to her husband. "Oh, Matt, drive her away. She tried to kill us."

"Who is she? Who are you, and what are you doing here anyway?"

The woman, quite dismayed, began to retreat. "It's all right. She promised. I'm going now."

Woo explained. "She Munro's wife. Belly drunk—advice same crazy. Take um gun—shoot lady." He pointed at Ann. "Me choke um. She fall on ground. No get up. Nola cutlee gun."

Kelly followed the intruder. "You go back to where you came from and stay there or 'twill be the worse for ye, ye murderin' omniallum."

Ann went to her room and flung herself down upon her bed in such abasement as she had never known in all her life. She could not deceive herself. She had brought this horrible assault upon herself by something more than tolerance of Munro.

The woman's ignorance and tastelessness, her common voice, her badly fitting garments, her incredible buseness of speech, all came back. "Ann Rupert a rival to that being!" Or course she had never for an instant directly encouraged Munro, and yet he had appeared to her and she had listened.

"Rob should have warned me," she complained, her mind going back to the man she could trust. At the moment she could not see or would not acknowledge that Raymond had ventured as far as he dared in revealing Munro's private life. She was too angry with herself and every one around her to be just. As her flaming wrath died she grew cold and bitter. "This is what comes of going outside one's own proper world. I shall leave the peak at once, and I hope I shall never see it or hear it spoken of again."

CHAPTER XVII.

ANN'S disgust and bitterness of self accusation were away as she faced the resolving sunlight and measured her scars against the breast of mighty Mogulyn. In the dawn of the second day the incident, having lost much of its shame and terror, was delectable, and under Matt's kindly counsel she reached a certain resignation.

"No one but ourselves need know what took place," he said in conclusion. "Woo is no talebearer, and when the woman herself sobs off she'll not remember a word of it. Furthermore, I warned her that Jack would wring her neck if he knew what she had done. So I wouldn't give another thought of it—not one."

"I'll try to forget it," she promised humbly, but she could not at once put the experience out of mind. She could only wait for that besotted face to fade into a grisly apparition. In the end she pitied the poor woman who loved and was willing to defend her love.

Raymond was chilled by the change in Ann—by a return to the cold aloofness of her manner at Barnett's—and was profoundly troubled by it.

The day following the woman's visit Munro rode down as usual to call and seemed amazed when Mrs. Kelly greeted him coldly. "Ann does not want to see you or any one else this morning—you least of all!"

Munro whistled. "Another cold blast. It's sure drafty up here on the side hill, isn't it? What do you suppose is the cause of it?"

From the inner room a clear, low voice, icy as a mountain stream, replied, "Miss Rupert is not receiving Captain Munro today or at any other time."

He took a step toward the door. "What have I done to get a crack like that?"

The door closed with a decided jar and a bolt slid.

Munro bowed. "I understand. I take the hint. But some day when you are feeling jolly I'd like to know what has frosted the air down here among the aspens."

"I can tell you," said Nora, with the directness of a woman who has known rough men all her life. "Ann has learned the kind of life you live, and she despises the sight of your face."

For the first time in his life Munro was confounded. He stood for a moment revolving an explanation. At last he said, "You mustn't take an enemy's report of me."

"We do not," said Nora calmly. "Your wife has called on us."

"My wife?"

"The woman who calls herself your wife. 'Tis all one so far as we are concerned."

Munro frowned. "Claire called! Here? Then with a leer that was characteristic of him, he asked, 'I hope you had a pleasant chat?'"

"Ask her. She did all the talkin'."

Munro became very serious and very winning. "Now, see here, Nora!"

"Call me Mrs. Kelly," she interposed shortly.

He was not smiling now. His heart was in his voice. "You tell Ann not to misjudge me. She must give me a chance to square myself. I don't claim to be a saint, but I've been open and aboveboard with every man or woman I've ever had any dealings with. Whatever my past has been, I'm living on a different plane now. I've cut off all my old habits for her sake. I'm trying to live up to her standard of things. I know she's better than I am, but I can

"Drop it!" he curtly commanded. "Drop it!"

cook of the household, rushed into the room and flung himself on the mad wretch. His long fingers encircled her throat. "Drop it!" he curtly commanded. "Drop it!" For a few moments the woman struggled, then the revolver fell to the floor, and Nora snatched it up.

Woo turned the gasping, hiccupping creature to the door and flung her out upon the ground. "You drunk. Go home. Stop home. Me sabbe you—go sabbe me," he said as he bent above her.

Ann interposed. "Don't hurt her, Woo."

He stood beside her while she slowly regained a sitting posture. "She belly dangerous. Me go tell Munro. She fight—me kick."

The poor creature now seemed dazed and broken and began to weep, and with her tears became as abjectly pitiful, as pathetically lawless, as she had been hideous and menacing in her wrath. Ann shuddered with a bitter nausea—a disorder that was half physical.

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"Who is she?

WRATH OF STORM

Was Apparently Vented on the Coastwise Fleet

WRECK OF LADY ANTRIM

Captain and Crew Met Death Off Marblehead Neck—Wife of a Barge Captain Drowned Off New London—Other Disasters

Marblehead, Mass., March 21.—Small fragments of the little Boothbay schooner Lady Antrim were found strewn along the outside of Marblehead neck, off which she was wrecked in Monday night's storm, with the loss of all hands. Among the broken pieces of the vessel were recovered the bodies of two of her crew.

The vessel was so completely smashed up that it was some hours after the wreckage had been discovered that her identity was learned from a portion of one of her sideboards. The first body was found high up on the beach at noon yesterday, while the other was hauled out of the surf about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

From the distribution of wreckage along the neck, it is thought that the Lady Antrim struck either on Tom Moore's rocks or Tinker's island late Monday night, but that she did not go to pieces until early yesterday.

A portion of her mainmast, which had been repaired, as well as an empty dory and a portion of the after-house, were among the principal objects which were found on the shore, but as a rule the vessel had been broken up so completely by the waves and rocks that the pieces were of small dimensions. Last evening what appeared to be a bed quilt was found fastened to a spar in a manner which seemed to indicate that those on board had tried to use it as a signal.

The searchers along the beach had a hard time, as the snow was deep and heavy. As far as can be learned no signals of distress or lights were heard or seen off Marblehead neck during the night. The beach is not patrolled by any lifesaving crew and the only persons on the neck are three caretakers of summer estates.

The Lady Antrim sailed from Provincetown Monday morning with a cargo of sand for Rockland, Me., and was manned by five men.

Twelve Hours in the Rigging

West Dennis, Mass., March 21.—For 12 hours, in the height of the storm, Captain Whistley and his crew of four men clung to the rigging of the schooner Winnie Lawry, which was driven up on a sand bar two miles out to sea, until they were rescued by a sloop yacht from South Yarmouth, which succeeded in standing by the stranded schooner. The five seamen were almost helpless from exhaustion from the effects of their long night in the mastheads and rigging, and Whistley described their experience as terrifying.

The Lane a Total Wreck

Boston, March 21.—Endeavoring to make the port of Boston to escape the storm, schooner C. C. Lane, bound from South Amboy for Portland, with a cargo of moulding sand, met disaster on the ledges of Boston light. She filled within 20 minutes of the time she struck, but her men found some shelter in the lee of the bowsprit, which was thrown highest on the ledge, where they clung for more than three hours before being taken off by Head Light-keeper Plimree and his first and second assistants, C. W. Jordan and H. C. Towle. The vessel is a total wreck.

Cann Boat's Crew Rescued

New Haven, March 21.—After a thrilling experience of 12 hours in a terrific snow and sleet storm, Captain Kelley of the steam catboat H. C. French, Richard Wickham, engineer, and William Kennedy, a deckhand, were rescued in an exhausted condition in the outer harbor. They were badly frostbitten but will recover. The vessel was dashed to pieces.

Boat Seams Opened

Bridgeport, Conn., March 21.—The barge Eleanor Easton of New York, with a cargo of 900 tons of coal, consigned to a New Haven firm, sunk with her cargo off Seaside Park. Caught in the storm, the Easton and six other barges in tow of a tugboat, sought an anchorage at the entrance of the harbor. Her seams opened and she sank.

Wife Died in Captain's Arms

New London, Conn., March 21.—Captain Bush of barge No. 14 of the New England Transportation company, and his wife, were aboard the barge at the dock when the vessel went down. When the couple got out of the cabin they could not get ashore, and when help arrived Mrs. Bush was drowned. The captain probably will recover. His wife was drowned in his arms. Bush is 76 years old and his wife was 71.

Crew Spent Night Afloat

Hyannisport, Mass., March 21.—The Boothbay, Me., schooner Marlon Draper, loaded with ice, was driven ashore off this place during the storm, but floated several hours later, after the captain and crew of three men had spent the night afloat out of reach of the seas. The vessel was apparently undamaged.

Large Population of Life Convicts

Hartford, March 21.—The reception of four life prisoners at the Connecticut state prison brings up to 66 the total number of convicts at Wethersfield who are undergoing life imprisonment. This is the largest census of life convicts ever confined in the state prison.

Passive as Peacemaker

Paris, March 21.—The suggestion of a mixed police at all ports, including Casablanca, on which the hopes of an eventual solution of the Moroccan difficulty are founded, emanated from President Roosevelt, according to The Temps' Algerian correspondent.

UP TO HAMILTON

He Alone Can Account For About \$1,300,000

WENT INTO HIS HANDS

New York Life Investigators Gave Every Opportunity For an Explanation Before Legal Proceedings Were Begun

New York, March 23.—A reply to Andrew Hamilton's letter refusing to appear before the Fowler investigating committee of the New York Life Insurance company was given out last night by acting Chairman Mackay of the committee. The letter, which is addressed to Hamilton, quotes in full certain messages and cablegrams passing between Hamilton and the committee, this correspondence indicating, the committee members declare, their desire to secure an accounting of the large sums of the company's money placed in the hands of the legislative agent.

The letter declares that at the first meeting of the committee after his return to this country a registered letter was sent to Hamilton stating that an action in court for an accounting of the company's funds had been authorized and that under the circumstances the committee would not ask him to appear before it. But if he desired to be heard, the committee would be glad to fix a time to suit his convenience.

"At the same time," the letter continues, "the committee requested counsel in charge of the action directed to be brought against you by the board of trustees to defer the service of papers until you had a reasonable opportunity to reply to this invitation. Having waited until March 19 without hearing from you, it withdrew that request. It must be said that your previous actions did not encourage the committee in the hope that you would avail yourself of the opportunity to appear before it."

"The committee has endeavored in vain before this to secure, through your attendance, information which you alone can give of the disposition of the large sums of the company's money placed in your hands."

The letter then quotes cablegrams dated in January showing its efforts to get into communication with Hamilton. A reply from Hamilton to the committee's representative in Paris is given in which the writer says he "must again assure the board of trustees of the company that I will, just as soon as possible, attend their sessions, but that I cannot, because of my nervous derangement, comply with their peremptory demand to return at once."

The letter continues: "The committee desired your presence because it was charged with the duty of ascertaining not only what moneys you had received, but what you had done with them. That duty was imposed upon it by the mandate of the Armstrong committee. The main question before the committee as to your matters was what had you done with the company's moneys, amounting to about \$1,300,000, which in our way or another had come into your hands during the past 10 years. You alone could tell us as to the great bulk of them."

"Something over \$100,000 appears from your vouchers to have been paid to you for legal services. Your receipts for the \$300,000 or thereabouts received for what has been called your legislative bureau were simply receipts in the ordinary form and throw no light on what you had done with the money. They did not show, nor did any records or books of the company, that there was a legislative or secret service bureau, or that you were engaged in any such work. The vouchers you signed for the various sums aggregating \$235,000, which Mr. McCall repaid because you did not read that you were to account for them. At that time you were acting in a legal capacity for the company in connection with its real estate purchases and mortgage loans. There was no reason for any one on the auditing committee to suspect that you would not account in accordance with the terms of the vouchers, though you have not done so."

After referring to others of the Hamilton transactions disclosed in the insurance investigation, the letter concludes: "These facts make clear the reason why the committee desired from you the information you could furnish as to the use and disposition of these large sums of money. Had that information disclosed that any of these sums had been used by you for improper purposes there would have been no shielding by this committee of any officer or trustee who had approved such payments."

"Referring to your letter, you say that the committee should by this time be satisfied that the statements contained in its report of Feb. 7, 1906, 'are seriously wrong.' That report is a plain statement of facts, which is not impeached in any particular by anything you have said, and which is corroborated by the report of the Armstrong committee."

"Your statement that any document in the company's official files which have been brought to the attention of the committee, or any official action spread upon the records of the proceedings of this committee, or any correspondence to which it has had access, has been tampered with to give a false color to any of your transactions or to make unwarranted accusations against you, is absolutely without the slightest foundation."

The letter is signed by Mr. Mackay, acting for the Fowler committee.

Ticket of Prohibitionists

Concord, N. H., March 22.—Rev. Edmund B. Tobey of Meredith was nominated for governor at the state convention of the Prohibition party held here. The convention also nominated Rev. Alvah H. Merrill of Laconia for congressman in the First district and Samuel P. Noyes for congressman in the Second district.

NOT QUITE SUCCESSFUL

Enlarged Propellers Do Not Increase Charleston's Speed

Rockland, Me., March 23.—Unless careful figuring of horse power statistics give unlooked for results, the re-standardization trial of the cruiser Charleston, held over the OW's head course with the ship equipped with enlarged propellers, was not regarded as a success by members of the naval trial board.

Rear Admiral Stockton, chairman of the board, expressed the opinion at the conclusion of the trial that the propellers used by the Charleston on her acceptance trial a year ago were superior to those tried yesterday. The present propellers have a greater diameter and a larger blade area and with them the Charleston made a maximum speed of 21.7 knots an hour in 16 runs over the course, compared with a fraction over 22 knots attained on the trial last year.

At the conclusion of last year's trial the Charleston was accepted from her builders, the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock company, but the data obtained showed that more than the indicated horse power was necessary to make the speed. It was because of this fact that the navy department decided to substitute the new propellers. The weather interfered yesterday with the trial, but probably did not affect the result.

Receiver Wanted For Mills

Waterville, Me., March 23.—The shareholders of the Riverview Worsted mills have asked for the appointment of a receiver. Treasurer Terry discovered yesterday that goods valued at about \$25,000 belonging to the corporation were being shipped out of the city without proper authority. He succeeded in stopping about \$17,000 worth of property at the railroad depot, but one car containing a lot valued at about \$8000 had gone. Counsel for the company will attempt to trace the car and secure possession of the contents.

Fight Against Union Label

Boston, March 23.—Seeking to prevent the use of the union label on all matter printed at the municipal printing plant, several master printers of Boston have filed in the supreme court a petition for a writ of mandamus. The petitioners contend that the expenditure of money to maintain the plant, as it is now conducted, is an abuse of corporate power and unlawful, and that the imprint of the union label on city printing is also repugnant and obnoxious to citizens not affiliated with unions or in sympathy with them.

Customer, Wrangle Over Milk

Boston, March 23.—Twice a year the officers of the Boston Co-operative Milk Producers' company and the milk contractors of Boston convene to decide prices for the season, and one of these gatherings is now on. The contractors propose to pay last summer's price, 37½ cents a can, in Boston, minus ½ cent a can if they wish cans before returning. The producers object to the washing charge. Both sides have until April 1 to agree on prices.

National Politics In Legislature

Boston, March 23.—The lower branch of the state legislature touched upon national politics in debate, the matter under discussion being an adverse report of the committee on election laws on the bill to allow voters to express their preference for United States senators in years preceding that in which the state legislature elects a United States senator. On a rollcall the substitution of the bill was refused by a vote of 100 to 74.

Plea For a Larger Army

Boston, March 23.—Lieutenant General Bates, U. S. A., at the Middlesex club's Veterans' night banquet last night, declared that the United States is in need of a larger standing army of trained soldiers. The present army of 60,000 men is not at all sufficient to meet a crisis, he claimed, and he urged the representative men present at the banquet to help along the movement to increase the army.

Railroad Settles Heavy Claims

Boston, March 23.—Claims aggregating \$300,000 have already been paid to injured passengers and relatives of passengers killed in the wreck of a Boston and Maine train in Lincoln last November, in which 17 persons were killed. To the claimants in the wreck at Everett, which followed shortly after the Lincoln wreck, \$15,000 has been awarded.

Found Dead in His Boat

New Bedford, Mass., March 23.—Medical Examiner Hough, who performed an autopsy on the body of Thomas Foster, found dead in the catboat Anna Louise yesterday, determined that Foster died of pneumonia. Bruises on his body and head were the result, probably, of being knocked about in the cockpit of his boat.

STARVING JAPANESE

Conservative Estimates Place Number at More Than 800,000

New York, March 23.—The New York state branch of the American National Red Cross has issued a statement as to famine conditions in Japan. It is explained that, owing to the national characteristics of the Japanese in not calling for help, these facts have just become known.

"The famine in Japan," the statement says, "is now known to be one of the most terrible starvation emergencies of modern times. The failure of the rice crops, which at one time was believed to be limited to certain classes only in the northern provinces, has been found to be general in those parts of Japan, and conservative estimates place the number of starving Japanese at from 800,000 to 1,000,000 people. For these, owing to extended rains last summer, which have ruined the rice and other food crops, there is absolutely no relief in sight until next October, when a new harvest will be available."

"As if this were not bad enough, the present winter has been one of the most severe in Japan for many years. The total sum which will be required to save the Japanese country people is \$16,000,000. This is estimated by allowing for a cost of 10 cents per person per day."

FAVORS PACKERS

Court Decides Against Criminal Prosecutions

FREE AS INDIVIDUALS

Verdict in Favor of Government as Far as Corporations Are Concerned, and the Cases Against Trust Will Continue

Chicago, March 22.—All the meat packers who were indicted by a federal grand jury last summer on charges of conspiracy in restraint of interstate trade and commerce have been granted immunity from criminal prosecution under the indictment. While the individuals are to go free, the indictments found against the corporations are to stand. A decision to this effect was handed down by Judge Humphrey.

Judge Humphrey reviewed the case at length and concluded as follows: "Under the law in this case the immunity pleas filed by the defendants will be sustained as to the individuals, and denied to the corporations, and the jury will find in favor of the government as far as the corporations are concerned and against the government as far as the individuals are concerned."

When the judge announced that the indictments would not lie against them the defendants crowded together and commenced to shake hands. The jurors, who had been excluded from the courtroom during the arguments made in the case, returned a verdict in accordance with the directions of the court.

Immediately following the dismissal of the jury District Attorney Morrison raised the question of the date for the trial of the corporations. He asked that the case be set for trial and that it commence within two weeks. This met with a protest from the attorneys for the packers, who insisted that they would be unable to prepare for the case before fall, pleading the number of witnesses which it would be necessary to bring to Chicago, the strain of the present trial and various other reasons.

After some discussion Judge Humphrey directed that the lawyers agree among themselves on a date and notify him of their decision next week. It is expected that the total number of witnesses in this trial when it begins will number at least 1000.

The corporations which must stand trial are the Armour Packing company, Armour & Co., Cudahy Packing company, Fairbank Canning company and Swift & Co.

Aldrich Mills Strike Is Off

Moosup, Conn., March 22.—The strike at the Aldrich Manufacturing company's mills was last night declared off by the operatives. All of the strikers are to be taken back, and will resume work under the old conditions with the exception that it is agreed by the company that there shall be no more overtime work. The ending of the strike was entirely unlooked for.

Electrocuted While Experimenting

Beverly, Mass., March 20.—Percy K. Dodge, aged 21, a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was electrocuted last evening while conducting some experiments at the power station of the shoe machinery plant. He was running some wires for a test, when he came in contact with one which was carrying a strong current.

Baby Took Strychnine Pills

North Attleboro, Mass., March 21.—Strychnine pills prescribed for a violent cold, and left where children could find them, caused the death of John Hartman, 4 years old. The mother, busily engaged, left the child in another room. It is said the little one took the envelope containing the pills and swallowed seven or eight of them.

Anarchist's Body Cremated

Cincinnati, March 21.—The body of Johann Most was cremated in this city. There was no religious ceremony, but some of Most's comrades delivered addresses before the cremation. Mrs. Most will take her husband's ashes to New York and a memorial meeting will be held there in a few days.

Spread of Smoking Habit

London, March 22.—The first smoking car ever reserved for women in Great Britain left a big London terminus yesterday for Liverpool. The windows bore a label reading "Ladies' Smoking." The innovation attests the spread of smoking among Englishwomen during recent years.

Papa Astor's Generosity

London, March 21.—Waldorf Astor will marry Mrs. Nannie L. Shaw at the end of April in Virginia and they will reside at Cliveden, the Thames residence of William W. Astor, which will be the wedding gift from Astor, who will also bestow upon his son an income of \$100,000 yearly.

Amherst's New Athletic Rule

Amherst, Mass., March 22.—The faculty of Amherst college announce a new rule by which no member of the freshman class will be allowed to represent the college on the varsity team in any branch of athletics. The new rule will go into effect next fall.

A New Billiard Star

Chicago, March 20.—Edward W. Gardner of Passaic, N. J., won the title of amateur billiard champion of America in the final game of the national tournament, which has been in progress here for a week. Gardner played five games without a defeat.

Improper Use of Mails

Boston, March 22.—Having pleaded guilty to a charge of having sent letters of an improper character through the mails, Joseph Curran, a special police officer of North Attleboro, was committed to jail here last night in default of bail of \$500.

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